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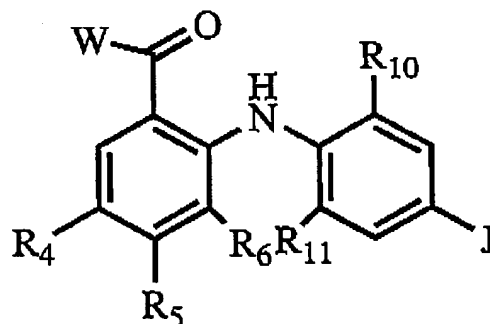
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-58. (canceled).

59. (currently amended) A method for treating ~~neuropathic~~ chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from a compound of formula (I)B:



(I)B

wherein

W is OR₁, NR₂OR₁, NR_AR_B, NR₂NR_AR_B, O(CH₂)₁₋₄NR_AR_B, or NR₂(CH₂)₁₋₄NR_AR_B; O(CH₂)₁₋₄OR₁, or NR₂(CH₂)₁₋₄OR₁;

R₁ is H, C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₃₋₈ alkenyl, C₃₋₈ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, phenyl, (phenyl)C₁₋₄ alkyl, (phenyl)C₃₋₄ alkenyl, (phenyl)C₃₋₄ alkynyl, (C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl)-C₁₋₄ alkyl, (C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl)C₃₋₄ alkenyl, (C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl)C₃₋₄ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ heterocyclic radical, (C₃₋₈ heterocyclic radical)C₁₋₄ alkyl, (C₃₋₈ heterocyclic radical)C₃₋₄ alkenyl, or (C₃₋₈ heterocyclic radical)C₃₋₄ alkynyl;

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each of R_2 and R_3 is independently H, phenyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-8} alkynyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, or $(C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl) C_{1-4} alkyl;

each of R_4 , R_5 and R_6 is independently H, Cl, F, or Br;

R_A is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} alkenyl, C_{3-8} alkynyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, phenyl, $(C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl) C_{1-4} alkyl, $(C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl) C_{3-4} alkenyl, $(C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl) C_{3-4} alkynyl, C_{3-8} heterocyclic radical, $(C_{3-8}$ heterocyclic radical) C_{1-4} alkyl, (aminosulfonyl)phenyl, [(aminosulfonyl)phenyl] C_{1-4} alkyl, (aminosulfonyl) C_{1-6} alkyl, (aminosulfonyl) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, or [(aminosulfonyl) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl] C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_B is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} alkenyl, C_{3-8} alkynyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, or phenyl;

J is SR_C , OR_C , SO_2R_C , SOR_C , $SO_2NR_D R_E$, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} alkenyl, C_{3-8} alkynyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{5-8} cycloalkenyl, phenyl, $(C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl) C_{1-4} alkyl, $(C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl) C_{3-4} alkenyl, $(C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl) C_{3-4} alkynyl, C_{3-8} heterocyclic radical, $(C_{3-8}$ heterocyclic radical) C_{1-4} alkyl, $-M'E'G'$, (heterocyclic radical)- $M'E'G'$, or (cycloalkyl)- $M'E'G'$;

M' is O, SO, SO_2 , NR_E , $(CO)NR_E$, $NR_E(CO)$, SO_2NR_E , NR_ESO_2 , or CH_2 ;

E' is absent (a covalent bond), $(CH_2)_{1-4}$ or $(CH_2)_m O(CH_2)_p$ where $1 \leq$ (each of m and p independently) ≤ 3 and $2 \leq (m + p) \leq 4$;

G' is OR_3 , SO_2R_C , or $NR_F R_G$; provided that where $p = 1$, then G' is H;

each of R_2 and R_3 is independently H, phenyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-8} alkynyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, or $(C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl) C_{1-4} alkyl;

each of R_C , R_D , R_E , R_F and R_G is independently selected from H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-4} alkenyl, C_{3-4} alkynyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclic radical, and phenyl; $NR_F R_G$ and $NR_D R_E$ can each also independently be selected from morpholinyl, pyrazinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, or piperadiny;

R_{10} is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo, NO_2 , or $SO_2NR_H R_{11}$; and

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R_{11} is H, halo, or NO_2 ;

wherein each hydrocarbon radical or heterocyclic radical above is optionally substituted with between 1 and 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, phenyl, hydroxy, amino, (amino)sulfonyl, and NO_2 , wherein each substituent alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or phenyl is in turn optionally substituted with between 1 and 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-2} alkyl, hydroxy, amino, and NO_2 ;

with the proviso that

when W is OH , then J cannot be Me , OMe , SMe , or SO_2Me ;

when W is NHCH_3 , then J cannot be Me or OEt ; and

when W is NR_2OR_4 , wherein R_4 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, phenyl; R_2 is H, phenyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, then J cannot be SR_6 , OR_6 , SO_2R_6 , SOR_6 , C_{1-8} alkyl, or $\text{M}^+\text{E}^-\text{G}^-$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or C_{1-7} ester thereof;

with the proviso that either:

R_6 is C_{1-2} alkyl;

W is $\text{NHO}(\text{cyclopropylmethyl})$;

R_{10} is methyl or chloro; R_{11} is fluoro;

R_{11} is H; J is trihalomethyl or methylthio;

J is 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl;

J is SOCH_3 ;

J is C_{2-8} alkynyl where the triple bond is between the carbon atoms alpha and beta to the phenyl group;

R_1 has at least one hydroxy substituent;

R_1 is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, benzyl, phenethyl, allyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-5} alkynyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, $(\text{C}_{3-5}$ cycloalkyl) C_{1-2} alkyl, or $(\text{C}_{3-5}$ heterocyclic radical)- C_{1-2} alkyl;

R_1 is H or $(\text{C}_{3-4}$ cycloalkyl)- C_{1-2} alkyl;

R_2 is H, methyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, or $(\text{C}_{3-5}$ cycloalkyl)methyl;

R_3 is H, methyl, ethyl, isobutyl, hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, phenyl, 2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl, 2,3-dihydroxy-propyl, 3-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl, 2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl, or 2-diethylamino-ethyl and R_8 is H; or where R_8 is methyl and R_9 is phenyl;

each of R_4 and R_5 is H and R_5 is F;

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each of R₄, R₅, and R₆ is F;

each of R₄ and R₅ is F and R₆ is Br, or

R₅ is F.

60-67. (canceled).

68. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R_C is C₁₋₂ alkyl.

69 and 70. (canceled)

71. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein W is NHO(cyclopropylmethyl).

72. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R₁₀ is methyl or chloro.

73. (original) A method of claim 59, where R₁₁ is fluoro.

74. (original) A method of claim 59, where R₁₁ is H.

75. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein J is trihalomethyl or methylthio.

76. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein J is 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl.

77. (canceled)

78. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein J is SOCH₃.

79. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein J is C₂₋₈ alkynyl where the triple bond is between the carbon atoms alpha and beta to the phenyl group.

80. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R₁ has at least one hydroxy substituent.

81. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R₁ is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, benzyl, phenethyl, allyl, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₃₋₅ alkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₅ cycloalkyl)C₁₋₂ alkyl, or (C₃₋₅ heterocyclic radical)-

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C₁₋₂ alkyl.

82. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R₁ is H or (C₃₋₄ cycloalkyl)-C₁₋₂ alkyl.

83. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R₂ is H, methyl, C₃₋₄ alkynyl, C₃₋₅ cycloalkyl, or (C₃₋₅ cycloalkyl)methyl.

84. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R_A is H, methyl, ethyl, isobutyl, hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, phenyl, 2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl, 2,3-dihydroxy-propyl, 3-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl, 2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl, or 2-diethylamino-ethyl; and R_B is H; or where R_B is methyl and R_A is phenyl.

85. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein each of R₄ and R₆ is H, and R₅ is F.

86. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein each of R₄, R₅, and R₆ is F.

87. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein each of R₄ and R₅ is F and R₆ is Br.

88. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R₅ is F.

89. (currently amended) ~~A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure~~ A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 4-fluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; 3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 3,4-difluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; 3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 4-fluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic

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acid; 3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 4-fluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; and N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide.

90. (currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; 8: 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-

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benzamide; 4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; and N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide.

91. ~~(currently amended) A method of claim 58, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure~~ A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 3,4-difluoro-2-(4-imidazol-1-yl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-imidazol-1-yl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-imidazol-1-yl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 2-[4-(4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-2-methyl-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; 2-[4-(4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-2-methyl-phenylamino]-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-[4-(4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-2-methyl-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-[4-[4-(2-dimethylamino-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-2-methyl-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-[4-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-phenylamino)-benzamide; and 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-[4-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-phenylamino)-benzamide.

92. ~~(currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure~~ A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 5-bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-methylsulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfinyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-chloro-methylsulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-methylsulfonyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfinyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-

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benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methylsulfonyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;
 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfinyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 5-bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methylsulfonyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;
 2-[2-chloro-4-(3H-imidazol-1-yl)-phenylamino]-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-[4-(2-chloro-4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; 2-[2-chloro-4-(4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-phenylamino]-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-[4-[4-(2-dimethylamino-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-2-methyl-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; and 2-(2-chloro-4-[4-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide.

93. **(currently amended)** ~~A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure~~ A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; 5-Bromo-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-Benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 4-Fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-Bromo-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzamide; 5-Bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-nitro-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzamide; and 4-Fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide.

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94. ~~(currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure~~ A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; 5-Bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-nitro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-chloro-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfinyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 5-Bromo-2-(4-ethynyl-2-chloro-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-benzamide; 5-Bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-chloro-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-chloro-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-nitro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-methanesulfinyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; and 2-(2-chloro-4-imidazol-1-yl-phenylamino)-3,4-Difluoro-benzoic acid.

Claims 95-123. (canceled).

124. ~~(currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure~~ A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; and 2-(3',5'-dichloro-biphenyl-4-ylamino)-benzoic acid.

Claim 125. (canceled).